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Press Release

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State, NASA ink new agreement

KODIAK, ALASKA – The State of Alaska enhanced its longstanding partnership with NASA by signing a new agreement on Nov. 19 to collaborate in a variety of activities of mutual interest involving small satellite development, advanced aviation, space exploration, education and science.

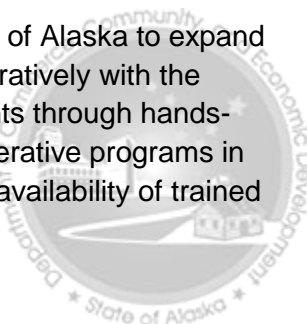
During a ceremony held at the Alaska Aerospace Corporation's (AAC) Kodiak Launch Complex, Deputy Commissioner Curtis Thayer, of the state Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, signed the Space Act Agreement on behalf of the state, alongside S. Pete Worden, director of NASA's Ames Research Center. The three-year collaboration establishes a partnership for space exploration, scientific research and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Alaska is proud of its long collaboration with NASA," Governor Sean Parnell said. "This new agreement allows us to expand the state's role as both a contributor to, and beneficiary of, NASA's national space expertise."

The agreement's terms call for research and development with the Alaska Aerospace Corp., based in Anchorage, to evaluate existing ground tracking stations at the Kodiak Launch Complex for potential use in support of NASA's small satellite operations. The ground stations also could be used to engage Alaska middle school through university students in tracking NASA spacecraft.

Expanding commercial opportunities for Alaska businesses are also possible under the new agreement. While in Alaska, NASA's Worden met with local telecommunications and mapping firms to discuss future options under the terms of the agreement.

"NASA is extremely happy to enter into an agreement with the State of Alaska to expand our longstanding relationship," Worden said. "NASA will work cooperatively with the state's educational institutions to find ways to engage Alaska students through hands-on, interactive, education activities and open the way for other cooperative programs in aviation and space technology. This will contribute to the continued availability of trained



scientists, technologists, engineers and educators to meet the nation's technical workforce needs in the 21st century."

The State of Alaska has worked with NASA over the past half century to advance the national space program, beginning with NASA launches from the Poker Flat Research Range in Fairbanks. These launches led to a broad range of programs in support of astronomy, planetary geosciences, satellite communications, space-based environmental monitoring, and the development of the Kodiak Launch Complex, as well as other activities that have helped establish the United States as a global leader in space.

"The educational opportunities in this new agreement are outstanding for our students, just as the economic and workforce development opportunities are for the state," Thayer said. "We look forward to continuing our work with NASA."

For more information about Alaska Aerospace Corp., and the Kodiak Launch Complex, visit:

<http://akaerospace.com/>

For more information about NASA's Ames Research Center, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ames>

To learn more about NASA's small satellite program, visit:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/smallsats

For information about NASA's education programs, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/education>

